

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 32, at line 25 as shown below:

The mold manufacturing method include a first step of obtaining ~~casing~~ casting sand by mixing a refractory casting sand with the above-mentioned water-soluble binder containing inorganic sulfate compounds and water; a second step of forming the resulting casting sand; and a third step of obtaining a mold by drying the casting sand in such a manner that the inorganic sulfate compounds in the casting sand are kept retaining at least a portion of the crystal water.